

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**  
**TONI N. HARP, MAYOR**



**PREPARED COMMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN**

**RE: FY18-19 STATE BUDGET FOR HIGHER EDUCATION:  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BIOSCIENCES**

February 15, 2017

My name is Michael Piscitelli and I am the Deputy Economic Development Administrator for the City of New Haven and I appear before you to offer City's written comment concerning the Governor's proposed FY18-19 budget, as it relates to today's proceedings on higher education and bioscience.

In 2015, the City of New Haven and Southern Connecticut State University entered into a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to support career advancement in the biosciences, the BioPath Initiative.

Building on the work leading up to the development of 100 College Street and return of Alexion Pharmaceuticals to New Haven, the BioPath was conceived as a necessary next step in workforce development, connecting New Haven residents to a new academic pipeline and to credentialed, industry-relevant degrees in the biosciences. Of note, SCSU has made exceptional progress already with an industry advisory committee, internship programs and a new Bachelor of Science degree in biotechnology.

Future efforts include concentrations in biotech associated with the more traditional STEM degrees – biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics. In response to industry needs, SCSU is also developing adult certifications and specialties in project management. All of this work is in keeping with industry standard, noting the very close connections between the Boston-area colleges and universities and the deep biotech cluster in greater Boston.

The BioPath supports career-readiness in the biosciences, an important economic cluster for New Haven and the state as a whole. There are approximately 24,000 jobs in the biosciences statewide. New Haven is the #2 bioscience cluster in New England, behind Boston. We are under intense competition from other states which is why the Alexion project and similar investments at Science Park and Downtown Crossing are essential to future growth of this important industry.

Beyond the economic issues, the science is vitally important. New Haven-based companies, the researchers at Yale and SCSU are working to advance the science in oncology, rare disease treatments, antibiotics and other very important fields of study – our residents/students are part of these exciting discoveries.

With these important issues in mind, the City understands the exemption proposed for certain bioscience programs at the University of Connecticut and respectfully requests that Southern Connecticut State University's BioPath program is also protected through a challenging budget process.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about the City/SCSU partnership, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF NEW HAVEN



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